

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01218 261137Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W

----- 016646

R 261033Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8718

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, CH, KN, AL, RO

SUBJ: KEREKOU RETURNS FROM TRIP TO "FRIENDLY" COUNTRIES

1. PRESIDENT KEREKOU AND HIS ENTOURAGE RETURNED TO COTONOU JULY 25 AFTER VISITING NORTH KOREA, CHINA, ROMANIA, ALGERIA AND A BRIEF STOPOVER IN SOMALIA AND NIGER EN ROUTE. THE TRIP, HE SAID, PROVED BENIN HAS CHOSEN THE RIGHT PATH (I.E. MARXIST-LENINISM). HE CLAIMED TO HAVE ACHIEVED HIS OBJECTIVE OF MAKING THE BENINESE REVOLUTION KNOWN TO THE "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES OF ASIA, EUROPE AND AFRICA. DETAILS OF THE JOURNEY ARE TO BE MADE PUBLIC AT A LATER DATE BY INFORMATION, INTERIOR AND SECURITY MINISTER AZONHIHO.

2. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S AIRPORT REMARKS WERE NOT IN THE USUAL KEREKOU STYLE. THEY SEEMED TO LACK HIS CUSTOMARY VERVE. SOME OBSERVERS ATTRIBUTE THIS TO FATIGUE. HOWEVER IF HE HAD ACHIEVED WHAT WE CONSIDER HIS TRUE OBJECTIVES OF NEW AID FROM HIS SOCIALIST BROTHERS, HIS STYLE WOULD REQUIRE THAT HE LAUD HIS SUCCESS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DETAILS FORTHCOMING FROM AZONHIHO WILL BE MERELY A BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF THE TRIP WITH A FAIR SHARE OF PRAISE FOR THE REC-
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EPTION GIVEN THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.

CHESHES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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